AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method, comprising:

administering to a subject for whom the presence or absence of a wound, wounded tissue, inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith is to be detected, a microorganism or cell detectable in the subject; ~~containing a DNA sequence encoding a detectable protein or a protein capable of inducing a detectable signal for the preparation of a diagnostic composition for diagnosis and/or visualization of wounded or inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith~~ and

monitoring the subject for detection of the microorganism or cell.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~ A method, comprising:

administering to a subject having a wound, wounded tissue, inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith a microorganism or cell detectable in a subject, ~~containing a DNA sequence encoding a detectable protein or a protein capable of inducing a detectable signal for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of wounded or inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith,~~ wherein said microorganism or cell ~~furthermore~~ contains one or more ~~expressible DNA~~ nucleic acid sequences encoding ~~(a) proteine(s)~~ a protein(s) suitable for the therapy of a wound, wounded tissue, ~~or~~ inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the microorganism or cell contains a nucleic acid encoding ~~said protein capable of inducing a detectable signal is~~ a luminescent or fluorescent protein.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 3, wherein said luminescent or fluorescent protein is luciferase, RFP or GFP.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 4, wherein said microorganism or cell additionally contains a ~~gene~~ nucleic acid encoding a substrate for a luciferase.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the microorganism or cell contains a nucleic acid encoding a ~~said~~ protein capable of inducing ~~a detectable signal is a protein inducing~~ a signal detectable by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or capable of binding a contrasting agent, chromophore or a ligand ~~required for visualization of tissues~~.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ The method of claim 1,wherein said microorganism is a bacterium or a virus.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 7, wherein said virus is Vaccinia virus.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 7, wherein said bacterium is selected from the group consisting of an attenuated Salmonella thyphimurium, an attenuated Vibrio cholerae, an attenuated Listeria monocytogenes ~~or~~ and E. coli.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 6,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 10, wherein the mammalian cell is an autologous or heterologous stem cell.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 2 to 11,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said protein suitable for the therapy of a wound, wounded tissue, ~~or~~ inflamed tissue or a disease associated therewith is an enzyme causing cell death or an enzyme causing the digestion of debris.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 12,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of endocarditis, pericarditis, inflammatory bowel disease, low back pain (herniated nucleus pulposis), temporal arteritis, polyarteritis nodosa ~~or~~ and an arthritic disease.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to anyone of claims 1 to 12,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said disease is an atherosclerotic disease.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to anyone of claims 1 to12,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease and ~~or~~ cerebral artery disease.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 15,~~ The method of claim 1,wherein said ~~diagnosis and/or visualization~~ monitoring is carried out by MRI.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 2 to 16,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said ~~expressible DNA~~ nucleic acid sequences are on a BAC, MAC, cyber cell or cyber virus.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to any one of claims 1 to 17,~~ The method of claim 2, wherein said ~~DNA~~ nucleic acid sequence is under the control of an inducible promoter.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a microorganism or cell as defined in any one of the preceding claims for monitoring the efficacy of an antibiotic regimen or evaluating the resistance of a suture or an implantable material to bacterial colonization~~A method comprising:

administering to a subject who is being treated with an antibiotic, has been treated with sutures and/or has been treated with an implantable material, a microorganism or cell detectable in the subject; and

detecting the microorganism or cell to:

(a) monitor the efficacy of an antibiotic regimen;

(b) evaluate the resistance of a suture to bacterial colonization; and/or

(c) evaluate the resistance of an implantable material to bacterial colonization.

20. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the microorganism or cell replicates in the subject, is not pathogenic to the subject and is recognized by the immune system of the subject.